

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims indicating their present status and amendments made thereto.

Please cancel claims 1-15.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

Please add the following new claims:

16. (New) A method of managing analytical data for lubricant samples from a piece of equipment utilized by an end-user customer, said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a unique identifier for an end-user customer;

assigning a unique identifier for a piece of equipment;

associating the customer identifier with the equipment identifier in a centralized database;

connecting the centralized database to the Internet to allow access thereto;

collecting lubricant samples from the piece of equipment;

testing the lubricant samples by at least two independent analytical sources to produce analytical data relating to the lubricant sample;

uploading the analytical data from the two independent analytical sources in a format different from one another into the centralized database across the Internet;

converting the analytical data from the formats of the two independent analytical sources into a common format; and

comparing the analytical data in the common format to determine a status of the piece of equipment.

17. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising the step of assigning unique identifiers for a plurality of lubricant manufacturers and associating the lubricant identifier with the equipment identifier in the centralized database.

18. (New) A method as set forth in claim 17 further comprising the step of assigning unique identifiers for a plurality of equipment manufacturers and associating the manufacturer identifiers with the equipment identifier in the centralized database.

19. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18 further comprising the step of permitting access to the centralized database by either of the lubricant or the equipment manufacturers to view the analytical data for their respective lubricants and equipment.

20. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18 further comprising the step of alerting at least one of the end-user customer, the lubricant manufacturer, or the equipment manufacturer in response to the collection of the lubricant being at non-prescribed intervals or in response to an abnormal status report for the equipment.

21. (New) A method as set forth in claim 20 wherein the step of alerting is further defined as notifying the end-user customer, the lubricant manufacturer, or the equipment manufacturer via the Internet.

22. (New) A method as set forth in claim 21 further comprising the step of generating work-flow process comments relating to the alerts and storing the comments in the centralized database.

23. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of comparing the analytical data is further defined as sorting, accumulating, aggregating, trending, and managing the analytical data in relation to the unique identifier of the end-user customer and the unique identifier of the piece of equipment.

24. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier for the piece of equipment is further defined as assigning a unique identifier for each of a plurality of equipment pieces different from one another.

25. (New) A method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the step of assigning a unique identifier for an end-user customer is further defined as assigning a unique identifier for a plurality of end-user customers different from one another.

26. (New) A method as set forth in claim 25 wherein the step of associating the customer identifier is further defined as associating each of the customer identifiers with each of the plurality of equipment identifiers specific to the end-user customer.

27. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 further comprising the step of assigning unique identifiers for each of the independent analytical sources.

28. (New) A method as set forth in claim 27 further comprising the step of generating a data model during an initial analysis for each of the independent analytical sources to convert the format of the analytical data from the independent analytical source into the common format.

29. (New) A method as set forth in claim 28 further comprising the step of automatically converting the analytical data from independent analytical sources based on the data model into the common format for subsequent analyses.

30. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of collecting the lubricant sample is further defined collecting petroleum-based lubricants.

31. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of collecting the petroleum-based lubricants is further defined collecting oil for performing an oil analysis thereon.

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32. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein the step of collecting the lubricant samples is further defined as collecting the lubricant samples from at least one machinery or vehicle.